IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE V.RAMKUMAR

FRIDAY, THE 5TH OCTOBER 2007 / 13TH ASWINA 1929

Crl.Rev.Pet.No. 3594 of 2007()

CRA.60/2006 of ADDL.SESSIONS COURT, FAST TRACK-II, PATHANAMTHITTA
CC.328/2005 of JUDL.MAGISTRATE OF FIRST CLASS COURT-I, PATHANAMTHITTA

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REVN. PETITIONER: APPELLANT/ACCUSED

BIJU GOPINATHAN NAIR, AGED 57 YEARS,
S/O. GOPINATHAN NAIR,MANAPPADATHU MEMURIYIL VEEDU,

BY ADV. SRI.S.SHANAVAS KHAN

RESPONDENTS: COMPLAINANT, STATE & LEGAL HEIRS OF DECEASED COM

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1. JOHN GEORGE (DIED)
KOLENCHIKAL HILL VIEW, ELANTHOOR, REPRESENTED BY
HIS POWER OF ATTORNEY HOLDER MONCY K.,
C/O, PRIYA COLD STORAGE, PATHANAMTHITTA.

2. THE STATE OF KERALA
REPRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR
HIGH COURT OF KERALA,ERNAKULAM.

3. SOSAMMA GEORGE,W/O. JOHN GEORGE
KOLENCHIKAL HILL VIEW, ELANTHOOR P.O.
PATHANAMTHITTAA.

4. JUDY GEORGE,D/O. LATE JOHN GEORGE
KOLENCHIKAL HILL VIEW, ELANTHOOR P.O.
PATHANAMTHITTA.

5. ANNIE GEORGE,D/O.LATE JOHN GEORGE
KOLENCHIKAL HILL VIEW, ELANTHOOR P.O.
PATHANAMTHITTA.

BY PUBLIC PROSECUTOR SRI.K.S.SIVAKUMAR

THIS CRIMINAL REVISION PETITION HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON 05/10/2007, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING:

V. RAMKUMAR, J.

Crl. R.P. No. 3594 OF 2007

Dated this the 5th day of October, 2007

O R D E R

In this Revision filed under Section 397 read with Sec. 401 Cr.P.C. the petitioner who was the accused in C.C. No.328/2005 on the file of the J.F.C.M.-I, Pathanamthitta challenges the conviction entered and the sentence passed against him for an offence punishable under Sec. 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Act').

2. I heard the learned counsel for the Revision Petitioner and the learned Public Prosecutor.

3. The learned counsel appearing for the Revision Petitioner re-iterated the contentions in support of the Revision. The courts below have concurrently held that the cheque in question was drawn by the revision petitioner in favour of the complainant on the drawee bank, that the cheque was validly presented to the bank, that it was dishonoured for reasons which fall under Section 138 of the Act, that the complainant made a demand for payment by a notice in time in accordance with clause (b) of the proviso to Section 138 of the Act and that the Revision Petitioner/accused failed to make the payment within 15 days of receipt of the statutory notice. Both the courts have considered and rejected the defence set up by the revision petitioner while entering the above finding. The said finding has been recorded

on an appreciation of the oral and documentary evidence. I do not find any error, illegality or impropriety in the finding so recorded concurrently by the courts below. The conviction was thus rightly entered against the petitioner.

4. What now survives for consideration is the question as to whether a proper sentence has been imposed on the Revision Petitioner. I am, however, inclined to modify the sentence imposed on the revision petitioner provided he complies with the condition hereinafter mentioned. Accordingly, if the revision petitioner pays to respondents 3 to 4 who are the legal heirs of deceased 1st respondent/ complainant in equal shares by way of compensation under section 357 (3) Cr.P.C. a sum of Rs.3,00,000/- (Rupees three lakhs only) within five months from today, then he need to undergo only imprisonment till the rising of the court. If on the other hand, the revision petitioner commits default in making the payment as aforesaid, he shall undergo simple imprisonment for three months by way of default sentence. Money, if any, paid by the revision petitioner pursuant to the orders, if any, passed by the lower appellate court shall be refunded to the revision petitioner.

This Revision is disposed of confirming the conviction but modifying the sentence as above.

(V. RAMKUMAR, JUDGE)

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